

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/583,048

Examiner

Leslie Wong

Applicant(s)

SZABO, ANDREW

Art Unit

2164

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 07/03/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-5,7-11,14-27,29-32, and 34-41 and now renumbered as 1-35.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Steven M. Hoffberg on September 21, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of providing a human-computer user interface, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing a user with a user interface for defining and retrieving objects based on a resource locator thereof;
 - (b) providing access to an object search engine for selecting objects from a set of objects, according to a user-defined information content criteria, and returning at least respective resource locators of selected objects; and
 - (c) presenting to the user at least three of the selected objects according to a hierarchal organizational structure having at least three hierarchal levels, a respectively lower level falling within a respectively higher level having a generic characteristic,

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wherein a selected object is automatically placed within the hierarchal organizational structure based on a respective information content of the at least two selected objects, to thereby group objects having an information content relation and classify characteristics of objects within classes;

(d) inserting objects extrinsic to the selected objects responsive to the user-defined information content criteria, into classes within the hierarchal organizational structure, said extrinsic objects having a contextual relevance to respective information content of a hierarchal level in which they are inserted, wherein at least one of an insertion and a selection by the user of an extrinsic object is selectively associated with a sponsor payment; and

(e) accounting in a database for said sponsor payments.

2. ~~(Cancelled) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of inserting objects extrinsic to the user defined information content criteria into the hierarchal organizational structure of selected objects.~~

3. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein the extrinsic objects comprise commercial messages.

4. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein the extrinsic objects comprise objects identified through a collaborative filter process.

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5. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 2, wherein the extrinsic objects are contextually related to the user-defined information content criteria.

6. (Cancelled) ~~The method according to claim 2, wherein the extrinsic objects are contextually appropriate for a positioning within the hierarchal organizational structure.~~

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the hierarchal organizational structure comprises a tree structure displaying at least three hierarchal levels within a graphic user interface.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the hierarchal organizational structure comprises a hyperbolic tree structure.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the hierarchal organizational structure comprises a display generated by a hyperbolic tree applet.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of charging a commercial message sponsor for delivery of commercial messages based on a semantic context of message delivery.

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11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of charging a commercial message sponsor for delivery of commercial messages based on a value of a subsequent commercial transaction with the user.

12. ~~(Cancelled) The method according to claim 3, wherein the extrinsic objects are identified through a collaborative filter process.~~

13. ~~(Cancelled) The method according to claim 3, wherein the extrinsic objects are contextually related to the user-defined information content criteria.~~

14. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the hierarchal organizational structure comprises a state independent information object.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of ranking members of the set of objects within a single hierarchal class based on a correspondence to the user-defined information content criteria.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving a ranking preference from the user for a ranking method for ranking members of the set of objects within a single hierarchal class.

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17. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of graphically representing a history of access to the set of objects.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of manipulating an object within the hierarchal organizational structure through a graphic user interface, and requesting information content corresponding to the manipulated object.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least two distinct predetermined hierarchical organizations of information are provided, each having at least three hierarchal levels for a universe of objects, further comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting a relevant hierarchy from among the at least two distinct predetermined hierarchical organizations of information;

(d) displaying links to the selected objects according to the relevant hierarchy;
and

(e) storing at least a subset of the displayed links within the relevant hierarchy as a state independent object.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of defining a user profile, for modifying at least one of the selection by the object search engine, and a hierarchy.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of presenting the hierarchal organizational structure with an applet, wherein the returned respective resource locators of selected objects are transmitted to the applet, which formats the set of objects in the graphic format hierarchal organizational structure, based on a relationship of a content corresponding to each object.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing an adaptive user profile applet, comprising a collaborative filter for initial classification, which is subsequently modified based on user observation, wherein the user-defined information content criteria is based on an explicit user input and a function of the adaptive user profile applet.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of defining the hierarchal organizational structure as a user taxonomic hierarchy of interests, correlating the user taxonomic hierarchy with a set of reference taxonomic hierarchies, and modifying the user taxonomic hierarchy based on sets of rules associated with a reference taxonomic hierarchies having high correlations.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one object has an associated digital rights rule, further comprising the step of applying digital rights rules to accesses of objects by the user.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein at least one digital rights rule provides a positive incentive to the user.

26. (Original) A computer readable medium having stored thereon a software program for executing the method according to claim 1.

27. (Amended) A system for providing a human-computer user interface, comprising:

(a) a set of navigational tools for defining and retrieving objects based on a resource locator thereof;

(b) an interface for an object search engine for selecting a set of objects according to a user-defined information content criteria and returning respective resource locators of selected objects; and

(c) an output, presenting:

(i) selected objects automatically located within a hierarchal organizational structure based on an information content of respective objects, a respectively lower hierarchal level falling within a respectively higher hierarchal level having a generic characteristic, wherein objects having related information content are grouped together and each group represents an information classification; and

(ii) objects extrinsic to the set of objects responsive to the user-defined information content criteria, inserted into classes within the hierarchal organizational structure of selected objects, said extrinsic objects having a contextual relevance to respective class in which they are inserted, wherein at least one of an insertion and a selection by the user of an extrinsic object is selectively associated with a sponsor payment; and
(d) a database for storing accounting information relating to said sponsor payments.

28. ~~(Cancelled) The system according to claim 27, wherein objects extrinsic to the user-defined information content criteria are inserted into the hierarchal organizational structure of selected objects.~~

29. (Amended) The system according to claim 27 28, wherein the extrinsic objects comprise commercial messages.

30. (Amended) The method according to claim 27 28, wherein the extrinsic objects comprise objects identified through a collaborative filter process.

31. (Amended) The system according to claim 27 28, wherein the extrinsic objects are contextually related to the user-defined information content criteria.

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32. (Amended) A method of outputting representations of selected objects organized in a taxonomic hierarchy, comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving a user input for selecting objects from a set of objects having varying relevance to the user input;
- (b) selecting objects from the set of objects according to a correspondence between the user input and an information content associated with respective objects;
- (c) automatically organizing the selected objects within classes of a taxonomic hierarchy according to a respective information content, the taxonomic hierarchy having at least three levels, a class at a respective level meeting a classification generic for a respective class at inferior level classification below it, and objects at a same inferior level within different classes not being generic for each other; and
- (d) outputting perceptual representations of the selected objects organized within the taxonomic hierarchy;
- (e) inserting objects extrinsic to the set of objects responsive to the user-defined information content criteria, into classes within the hierarchal organizational structure of selected objects, said extrinsic objects having a contextual relevance to respective class in which they are inserted, wherein at least one of an insertion and a selection by the user of an extrinsic object is selectively associated with a sponsor payment; and
- (f) accounting in a database for said sponsor payments.

33. ~~(Cancelled) The method according to claim 32, further comprising the steps of inserting objects extrinsic to the set of objects responsive to the user defined information content criteria, into classes within the hierarchal organizational structure of selected objects, said extrinsic objects having a contextual relevance to respective class in which they are inserted, wherein at least one of an insertion and a selection by the user of an extrinsic object is selectively associated with a sponsor payment; and accounting in a database for said sponsor payments.~~

34. (Amended) The method according to claim 32 33, wherein said extrinsic objects comprise at least one hyperlink.

35. (Amended) The method according to claim 32 33, further comprising the step of ranking objects within a class based on a sponsor payment consideration.

36. (Amended) The method according to claim 32 33, further comprising the step of defining a user profile, for modifying at least one of a selection of objects responsive to the user-defined information content criteria, and a selection of extrinsic objects.

37. (New) A system for providing a human-computer user interface, comprising a processor executing software for defining:

(a) a set of navigational tools for defining and retrieving objects based on a resource locator thereof;

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(b) an interface for an object search engine for selecting a set of objects according to a user-defined information content criteria and returning respective resource locators of selected objects; and

(c) an output, presenting:

(i) selected objects automatically located within a hierarchal organizational structure based on an information content of respective objects, a respectively lower hierarchal level falling within a respectively higher hierarchal level having a generic characteristic, wherein objects having related information content are grouped together and each group represents an information classification; and

(ii) objects extrinsic to the set of objects responsive to the user-defined information content criteria, into classes within the hierarchal organizational structure of selected objects, said extrinsic objects having a contextual relevance to respective class in which they are inserted, wherein at least one of an insertion and a selection by the user of an extrinsic object is selectively associated with a sponsor payment.

38. (New) The system according to claim 37, further comprising a sponsor payment database, wherein the sponsor payment is accounted for in the sponsor payment database.

39. (New) The method according to claim 37, wherein the extrinsic objects comprise commercial messages.

40. (New) The method according to claim 37, wherein the extrinsic objects comprise objects identified through a collaborative filter process.

41. (New) The system according to claim 37, wherein the extrinsic objects are contextually related to the user-defined information content criteria.

Examiner's Remarks

Claim 26 recites a "computer readable medium", the specification does not clearly define which forms the above medium may take. Such a medium may take many forms, including, but not limited to, non-volatile, volatile and transmission media etc... Examiner interprets the limitation "computer readable medium" to include only volatile and non-volatile mediums. As such claim 26 falls within the statutory classes of § 101.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leslie Wong whose telephone number is (571) 272-4120. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 9:30am - 6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, CHARLES RONES can be reached on (571) 272-4085. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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September 22, 2006